

Avalanche leaves tram's future in doubt

Bridal Veil has long history of costly slides

By PAT CHRISTIAN
The Daily Herald

The future of a well-known area attraction is up in the air following Wednesday's destructive avalanche in Provo Canyon that extensively damaged the world's steepest aerial tram at Bridal Veil Falls.

"It looks like a war zone up here," said David Grow, owner of the Provo Canyon attraction.

Grow is still trying to come up with firm damage figures, but estimates range between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

He believes there is little left to salvage. "I think the tram is going to have to be totally rebuilt," Grow said. And he doubts he is up to the task, after being burdened by avalanches in 1986 and two years ago.

"The '86 one cost me around \$150,000 in damage, and the one two years ago was probably about \$25,000.

"It's very possible the risk of having a facility like that should be assumed by other than me," Grow said Wednesday. "It's worth having there. It's an important addition to our community's personality, but whether a couple of little families can afford to reinvest what it will take will be very doubtful."

The tram was completed in 1961, by Rue L. and Margaret Clegg, and was billed as the steepest aerial tram in the world.

Clegg, a Heber City native and one-time state senator, first saw the Bridal Veil waterfall when he was

and fell to his death.

Initially, there was only an observation platform at the top tram station, but a restaurant was later located there. Ultimately, dining was curtailed and riders just went to the top for the ride and to take in the spectacular view.

Grow said he and other members of his family took over operation of the distinctive Provo Canyon attraction in 1974. He said that while there had been smaller avalanches that did relatively minor damage after he took over, real threat from snow slides finally became evident with the '86 slide.

Grow said Wednesday's avalanche basically finished off his canyon attraction.

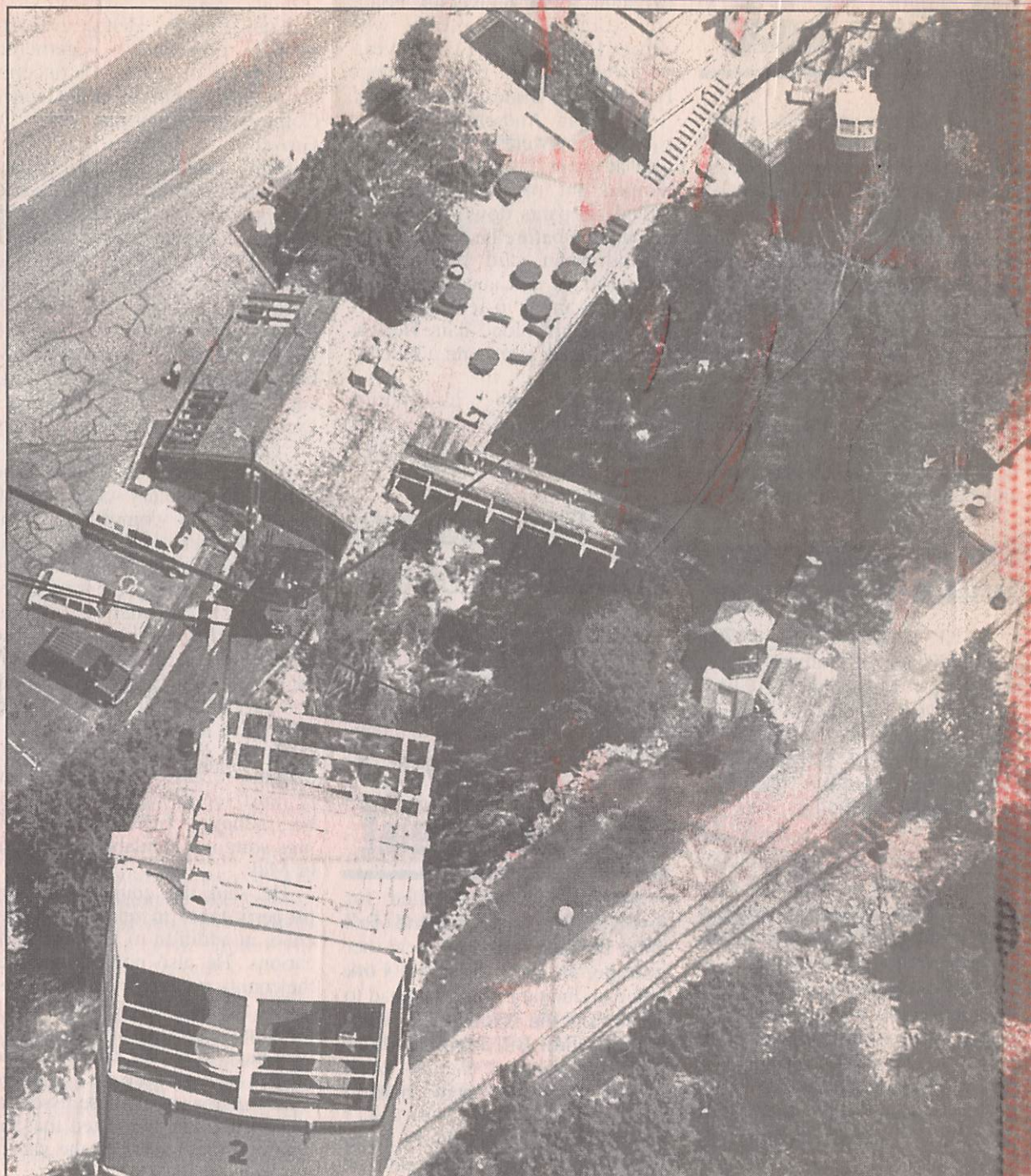
He said there's a chance that some of equipment of the tram can be salvaged, but otherwise it will have to be rebuilt.

Grow said it was an avalanche-driven wind that may have reached 200 miles per hour that blew the wooden structure down. He said it looks like the wreckage of a Florida hurricane.

The railroad box car used for storage was pushed off the tracks and into the river. The old caboose that replaced the snack bar, destroyed in 1986, is buried by tons of snow and its condition might not be known until spring.

Historically, the Bridal Veil Falls area has been struck by avalanches that cascade over the waterfall, and from slides out of Lost Canyon on the north side of the canyon.

In 1924, two workers were killed there. An initial avalanche on March 24 of that year only buried the railroad tracks and workers managed to clear the tracks. But another avalanche on March 28 reburied the tracks while



A fire broke out Wednesday afternoon in a room at The Colony Inn, 1380 S. University in Provo. The fire damaged one room and two people were taken to the hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

Police beat

Candy Anderson, a housekeeper at the inn was the first to detect the fire when she heard the smoke detectors going off.

Several guests grabbed fire extinguishers and rushed in the room to try to put out the flames, said inn manager Eric Flynn. The fire department was notified a short time later.

Anderson and an inn guest were taken to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center where they were reported to be in stable condition late Wednesday afternoon.

Flynn said the carpets, walls and bed were all damaged in the

Storm information available by phone

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) has activated its toll-free information line to provide Utah residents with winter storm emergency preparedness information. The toll-free number is 1-800-SL FAULT.

blaze.

Capt. Arthur Spear of the Provo Fire Department believes the fire was started by "smoking materials."

INDECENT EXPOSURE — Brigham Young University Police are searching for a man who exposed himself to two 19-year-old women near the Heritage Halls Central Building early today.

Lt. Brian Andreason said the two women were walking in the area at about 2 a.m. when a man jumped out of his vehicle and pulled his pants down in front of the women before he fled.

Andreason said the man is described as a Caucasian in his mid-20s, about 6-feet tall with short, straight blond hair. He was wearing black jeans and a blue ski jacket.

Anyone with information regarding the individual should contact the BYU Police Department at 378-2222.

Sp. Fork couple appear in court

By **BRANDY VOGEL**
The Daily Herald

A Spanish Fork couple appeared before Judge Howard H. Maetani this week to make a temporary division of assets as a result of their pending divorce.

express concerns

By **JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN**
The Daily Herald

Utah County Health Department employees gathered Wednesday to express concerns about their employment to County Commission Chairman Jerry D. Grover.

Some employees were upset that their retirement benefits had been cut by two percent to help make up a county budget shortfall. Others complained that they had not received cost of living increases for the past eight years and still others told Grover that people were leaving their departments for better paying jobs, and that the cost of training new employees exceeds the cost of granting salary increases.

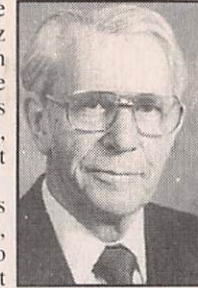
One employee claimed that the county's base salary schedule is 10 percent below comparable positions elsewhere, and said the Environmental Health Division alone has suffered a 50 percent turnover because of low salaries. In addition to the low salaries, the employee said the county had hiring problems and no merit system, and the cuts in retirement benefits need to be restored.

Grover explained the county's budget process. He said the county must set its budget in December.

Josef L. Gaydos died January 30, 1996, in Alpine. Funeral Services will be Saturday February 3, at 11 a.m. in the Alpine Ward, 165 N 100 East, Alpine, Utah. Friends may call Anderson & Sons Mortuary, 49 East 100 North, American Fork, Friday 6-7 p.m. with a Rosary following at 7 p.m. Burial in the Alpine Cemetery.

Mark Knight Allen

Mark Knight Allen, age 90, passed away at Provo, Utah, January 30, 1996. He was born October 22, 1905, to Robert Eugene Allen and Inez Knight Allen in Provo, Utah. He married Phyllis Sloan January 18, 1934, in the Salt Lake Temple.



He received his formal education, from elementary to baccalaureate, at Brigham Young University, where among his many activities he was editor of the Banyan in his senior year. He then went on to earn his Master's and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University.

His contributions to the LDS church included a mission to the Eastern States and superintendency of the Sunday School in the first stake organized at BYU. For many years he was also a dedicated teacher and wrote numerous articles and courses of study for church publications.

In 1932, he became the first assistant superintendent and psychologist at the newly established Utah State Training School in American Fork. He held this position for thirteen years, after which he served as clinical consultant for 36 years. A building constructed to house the Facility Center there was named in

Eggertsen Broadhead

Peggy ReJean Eggertsen Broadhead passed away peacefully from our lives at home on January 29, 1996, due to complications from Alzheimer's Disease. Peggy was born on January 31, 1934, in Provo, Utah to Armand D. "Squint" and Bee Halladay Eggertsen. She graduated from Provo High School in 1952, and married Howard R. Crandall on May 5, 1954, with whom she had four children. Peggy married Max G. Broadhead on November 14, 1986, and spent her remaining years with him enjoying golf, traveling, grandchildren, and being each other's constant companions.



Peggy worked for many years with her first husband in their family bookbinding business. When her children were younger, she served as Primary secretary in the LDS Church. Peggy worked for years at ZCMI as a manager, and made many lifelong friendships there. Peggy loved music and spent many days singing and dancing with her friends at the Orem Senior Center.

Peggy was a gentle soul with a caring heart and sparkling eyes. Though her mind became clouded by her illness, it could not touch her heart or her joy in living. Peggy was loved by all who knew her, and her beautiful smile will be missed.

Peggy is survived by her husband Max, of Orem; four children: Terr Crandall, Provo; Daniel (Holly) Crandall, Orlando, Florida; Carin (John)

1993 avalanche that buried and destroyed their camper. They were transported to the hospital, but even go back up in the canyon to get his stuff," said Grover.

This photograph of the Bridal Veil Falls area was taken from the aerial tram June 4, 1985 — a year before an avalanche buried the popular Provo Canyon attraction. The 1986 slide destroyed the snack bar, seen at the end of the river bridge. On Wednesday, an avalanche destroyed the tram station/store that is visible in the upper right-hand corner.

Daily Herald Photo/Pat Christian



house near South Fork. Grover says that two ice climbers who were in a camper at Bridal Veil Falls were nearly killed in the

slide killed a man who lived in a Provo Canyon avalanches had killed even before 1924. In 1897 a

at the same time. Provo Canyon avalanches had sounded like 10,000 cannons fired. One of the survivors was thrown 250 feet by the wind that preceded the avalanche and was not seriously hurt. Another survivor said the noise produced

a second crew was working in the area. Five men in the path of the slide tried to get out of the way but two men were buried and killed.

There was one tragedy during construction, when a bulldozer operator Bill Dominguez accidentally drove off one of the upper cliffs \$165,000.

Then in the '60s, Clegg began planning the aerial tram and completed it in 1961, at a cost of \$400, and built a miniature castle where dances were held. But a flood destroyed the castle in 1938.

area. Around 1927 he bought the falls and 80 acres around it for \$400, and built a miniature castle